

Some noteworthy records of birds from Bolivia

by Theodore A. Parker, III and Rose Ann Rowlett

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While conducting a natural history tour in central and northwest Bolivia in October 1983, we observed several unusual bird species including one species not previously recorded in the country.

COMB DUCK *Sarkidiornis melanotos*. On 3 October 1983 we observed one individual, probably a female because of its small size and lack of a "comb", on a small pond 8 km east of Montero, (17° 20'S, 63° 15'W) along the road to Okinawa, Dpto. Santa Cruz. The bird was in the company of 24 Brazilian Ducks *Amazonetta brasiliensis*. Dott (1984 — see back in this issue) records this duck as an irregular visitor. It is a widespread species and it has been found in the lowlands of adjacent Peru (where it is very rare), Brazil and Argentina (Blake 1977).

BLACK-AND-WHITE HAWK EAGLE *Spizastur melanoleucus*. On 21 October 1983 we watched 3 adults of this rare raptor at they circled over tall, lower montane cloudforest of Serranía Bellavista, about 48 km by road north of Caranavi (15° 46'S, 67° 36'W) Dpto. La Paz, at 1100 m. In addition to their immaculate white underparts and very dark upperparts, we noted their long wings and relatively short, narrow and indistinctly barred tails; in all 3 birds the leading edge of the wing was white and contrasted strikingly with the dark upper surface. Previous records for Bolivia are summarised by Remsen & Ridgely (1980). This is apparently the first record for Dpto. La Paz.

YELLOW-BREADED CRAKE *Porzana flaviventer*. On 3 October 1983 we found one individual of this diminutive rail in a marsh 8 km east of Montero, Dpto. Santa Cruz. On several occasions from 13:00 to 14:30 the bird hesitantly emerged from tall, dense cover of a *Typha* reed bed, and briefly walked along the mud bordering a small pond, at times passing within a few centimetres of 2 Ash-throated Crakes *Porzana albicollis* also present in the reeds. All 16 observers present noted its very small size (in direct comparison with the conspicuously larger *P. albicollis*), uniformly buff-coloured underparts and supercilary, pale-streaked back, and black-and-white barred flanks. This is the first record of this species for Bolivia; it was previously known primarily from northern, eastern and southern South America, occurring as close to Bolivia as Tucumán, Argentina (Blake 1977).

PAINT-BILLED CRAKE *Neocrex erythrops*. The Bolivian records of this enigmatic species were recently summarized by Remsen & Traylor (1983), but little has been published on its habitat requirements or behaviour. On 3 October 1983 we heard 3 *Neocrex erythrops* singing (see later) at dusk from dense, shrubby thickets bordering the marsh 8 km east of Montero, Dpto. Santa Cruz. The birds were apparently on dry ground under shrubs averaging about 2m in height, within a few metres of water. They could not be enticed to leave the impenetrable cover through tape playbacks. Their songs are unlike those of any other rallid known to us and consisted of a long, gradually accelerating and descending series of up to 36 staccato notes delivered in a continuous sequence, followed by 3-4 short, churring notes that drop noticeably in pitch, the last of which is usually given as a protracted flat trill of about 3 seconds. Occasionally a shorter vocalization was

given, consisting of an introductory staccato note followed by the churring trill described above, in rhythm and quality somewhat reminiscent of the song of the Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus picus*, which occurs in the same habitat. We first learned the songs of *N. erythrops* on 26 October 1981, when we discovered one of these rails on the ground in well-shaded, damp secondary woodland (of slender trees averaging 7–10 m in height) bordering a clearing on the outskirts of Puerto Maldonado, Dpto. Madre de Dios, southeastern Peru. The bird on that occasion responded to playbacks of its own song by cautiously walking back and forth in a semi-circle, while remaining about 2 m from us.

UPLAND SANDPIPER *Bartramia longicauda*. This migrant from North America was previously known in Bolivia only from Dptos. Beni and Pando (Gyldenstolpe 1945). On 25 October 1979, R. A. R. and Robert Ridgely saw one bird on a high plain (3700 m) near Lago Uru-Uru (18°S, 67°W) Dpto. Oruro. R. A. R. also observed several groups of 3–4 *Bartramia* near Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Santa Cruz city) Dpto. Santa Cruz, on 2 October 1982. We saw 4 in grassland about 8 km southwest of the same city, along the road to Villa Montes, on 2 October 1983; at least 8 were noted in pasture land 5–10 km north of the city on 3 October 1983 and several were also heard 8 km east of Montero on the same day. This species is apparently a regular autumn migrant through the Santa Cruz area.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER *Tryngites subruficollis*. Gyldenstolpe (1945) reported October records of this migrant from North America for Dptos. Beni and Pando, at that time the only records for Bolivia. On 3 October 1982 R. A. R. found 2 on a grass-covered sandbank along the Rio Grande, northeast of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. On 3 October 1983 4 were seen in very short grass growing on a recently dried out small pond 8 km east of Montero. They were in close proximity to other migrants: *Tringa solitaria* (8), *T. flavipes* (12), *Actitis macularia* (2) and *Calidris melanotos* (30+).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT *Limosa haemastica*. On 4 October 1983 we found 2 individuals of this unmistakable species at the now unused sewage ponds on the northeast outskirts of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Both birds were in the uniformly grey basic plumage. They were resting amidst a group of 30+ Wattled Jacanas *Jacana jacana*, close to other North American migrants: *Tringa solitaria* (6), *T. flavipes* (20), *Actitis macularia* (3), *Calidris melanotos* (20) and *Phalaropus tricolor* (1). The only previous record of *L. haemastica* for Bolivia is of one photographed at Lago Uru-Uru, Dpto. Oruro, on 12 September 1972 (Pearson 1975).

BLACK SKIMMER *Rhynchops nigra*. The few records of this species for Bolivia are from Dptos. Beni (Bond & Meyer de Schauensee 1942) and La Paz (Niethammer 1953). On 25 October 1979 R. A. R. and Robert Ridgely found 2 at the north end of Lago Uru-uru (3700 m), Dpto. Oruro. We observed one along the sandy shore of the Rio Piray, north of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, on 3 October 1983. These records represent a substantial southerly range extension.

SAND-COLOURED NIGHTHAWK *Chordeiles rupestris*. On 12 October 1983 we observed at least 10 individuals along the Rio Chapare at Villa Tunari, Dpto. Cochabamba. It was previously known in Bolivia only as far south as Dptos. Beni and La Paz (Niethammer 1953).

WHITE-THROATED ANTPITTA *Grallaria albigula*. This rare species was known only from 2 specimens collected at Samaipata, Dpto. Santa Cruz (Bond & Meyer de Schauensee 1942) and 7 specimens from Santo Domingo, Dpto. Puno, Peru

(Chapman 1923, Bond 1950). On 13–14 October 1983 we heard at least 5 different individuals between 1575 and 1700 m in humid cloudforest about 52 km by road west of Villa Tunari, Dpto. Cochabamba. One pair was observed when they responded to playbacks of their songs, which consisted of 2 mellow whistled notes, the first shorter and lower-pitched than the second. The birds hopped about on the ground in and near a narrow ravine well-shaded by a canopy of epiphyte-laden trees averaging about 10 m in height. The undergrowth, which contained only small, scattered thickets of *Chusquea* bamboo, was light to moderately dense.

WHITE-NAPED XENOPSARIS *Xenopsaris albinucha*. On 3 October 1983 we saw one in the crown of an *Acacia* tree in cut-over second-growth near the old sewage ponds on the northeast outskirts of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. This solitary bird made short upward sallies to glean *Acacia* leaves and twigs. The species was previously known to Bolivia only from one specimen collected at Orión, Dpto. Beni (Gyldenstolpe 1945) and from a record from Chararona, Dpto. Beni (Meyer de Schauensee 1966).

PALE-FOOTED SWALLOW *Notiochelidon flavipes*. Recent records of this little known species were summarized by Parker & O'Neill (1980) and Parker *et al.* (1981). In addition at least 20 were seen over Siberia cloudforest (17° 54'S, 64° 29'W), Dpto. Santa Cruz, on 18 October 1979 (R. A. R. and Robert Ridgely). We saw 1–2 groups of 10–15 over Siberia cloudforest at 3000 m, on 8 October 1983; 10+ over Chapare cloudforest at 3200 m, along the new Cochabamba-Villa Tunari Road, Dpto. Cochabamba, on 11 October 1983; and 4 over Chapare cloudforest at 2570 m (same road), on 14 October 1983.

BANK SWALLOW *Riparia riparia*. This migrant from North America has been reported from Bolivia only in Dpto. Santa Cruz (Meyer de Schauensee 1966). On 3 October 1982 R. A. R. saw one with a flock of *Hirundo rustica* northeast of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. We saw one with a group of 10+ *H. rustica* over a small pond 8 km east of Montero, on 3 October 1983. 1–2 were also noted with many *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* and several *H. rustica* over a pond about 1 km northwest of San Isidro (18° 03'S, 64° 25'W), Santa Cruz, on 8 October 1983. One was seen at Lago Uru-Uru, Dpto. Oruro at 3700 m, on 16 October 1983, with an apparently migrating flock of *H. rustica*.

CLIFF SWALLOW *Hirundo pyrrhonota*. Remsen & Taylor (1983) reported the first record of this North American migrant for Bolivia, a specimen collected in Dpto. Chuquisaca. J. V. Remsen, Jr. had seen this species nearly every day, 23 Nov–5 Dec 1976, from as few as 5 to as many as 200 per day, at Estancia Inglaterra, along the Rio Yata, Provincia Yacuma, Dpto. Beni; none was seen there 6–24 December. Remsen had also seen 5 others over Cochabamba city, Dpto. Cochabamba on 1 November 1976. R. A. R. saw a flock of 30+ about 5 km south of San Isidro, Dpto. Santa Cruz on 5 October 1982. We observed 2 about 1 km northwest of San Isidro on 9 October 1983. R. A. R. and Robert Ridgely saw 2 at Lago Uru-Uru, Dpto. Oruro, on 25 October 1979; we saw 2 in the same locality on 16 October 1983. We noted several with a group of *H. rustica*, *H. andecola*, and *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca* at a small pond about 8 km north of the city of Oruro on 16 October 1983.

The following sight records obtained during our trip were the first for their respective Departments (J. V. Remsen, Jr., M. A. Traylor, Jr., and Gatson Bejerano, unpubl. data). Dpto Santa Cruz:— (Santa Cruz city area, 2–5 October 1983) *Egretta ibis*, *Streptoprocne zonaris*, *Chaetura brachyura*, *Chaetura andrei* and *Passer domesticus*; (Tambo School area, east of Comarapa, 6–8 October 1983) *Vultur gryphus*, *Circus cinereus*, *Geranoaetus melano-leucus*; (Siberia cloudforest, 8–9 October 1983) *Columba fasciata*, *Amazona mercenaria*, *Aeronautes andecolus*, *Ensifera ensifera*, *Synallaxis axaraxae*, *Pseudocolaptes boissonneautii*, *Grallaria erythrotis*, *Scytalopus unicolor*, *Octhoeca cinnamomeiventris*, *Phyllomyias uropygialis*, *Conirostrum sitticolor* and *Poospiza erythrophrys*. Dpto. Cochabamba:— (Villa Tunari area, 11–13 October 1983) *Sterna superciliiaris*, *Forpus xanthopterygius*, *Myiopagis caniceps*, *Tersina viridis*; (Chapare cloudforest, between Villa Tunari and Cochabamba) *Oroaetus isidori*, *Grallaria guatemalensis* [RAR], *Scytalopus unicolor*, *Scytalopus femoralis*. Dpto. La Paz:— *Aeronautes montivagus*.

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Specimens of *Calandrella obbiensis* and *Sarothrura ayresi* in Milan Museum

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Specimens of the Obbia Lark *Calandrella obbiensis* and White-winged Flufftail *Sarothrura ayresi* being rare in collections, we report here on 2 of each that have recently come to light in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan (MSNM).